

The claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing for post-operative sites requiring drainage comprising:
a thin film or film/foam laminate layer with an adhesive applied to one surface thereof;
an absorbent layer positioned on the adhesive surface of the thin film or film/foam laminate layer, the dressing being provided with an aperture to accommodate a drainage tube; and
the dressing being slit, taking a curved path from the aperture to an outer edge of the dressing, and wherein the absorbent layer does not extend along ~~[[to]]~~ an edge of the slit, leaving a border free of absorbent layer adjacent the slit.
2. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dressing is circular in shape.
3. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dressing is elliptical in shape.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein radial cuts extend from the aperture into the dressing but not to an outside edge of the dressing so that the aperture can accommodate large diameter drainage tubes.
6. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer becomes transparent on absorption of exudate.
7. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer is fibrous.
8. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises gel forming fibres.
9. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer is a carboxymethylated fabric.
10. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer is a carboxymethylated cellulose fabric with a degree of substitution of cellulose groups measured by IR spectroscopy in the range of from 0.12 to 0.45.

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11. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dressing is made from Lyocell and has an absorbency of at least 10g/g of sodium/calcium chloride solution.
12. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises alginate fibres.
13. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said thin film layer or film/foam laminate is transparent.
14. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said thin film layer is a polyurethane film.
15. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said film/foam laminate is an expanded polyurethane foam laminated to a polyurethane film.
16. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said film or film/foam laminate layer extends beyond said absorbent layer for securing the dressing to the skin.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 [[17]] wherein the edge of the slit, which is free from the absorbent layer, is coated with an adhesive.
19. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 having a wound contacting surface wherein said absorbent layer is said wound contacting surface of the dressing.
20. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in any of claim 1 wherein a further adhesive layer overlies said absorbent layer.
21. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 20 wherein said further adhesive layer is apertured.
22. (Original) The wound dressing as claimed in claim 20 having a wound contacting surface wherein said further adhesive layer is the wound contacting surface of the dressing.